



Hala  
PATENT

Customer No. 22,852

Attorney Docket No. 07781.0013-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Stefan HACK et al. ) Group Art Unit: 3623  
Application No.: 09/609,714 ) Examiner: Heck, Michael C.  
Filed: June 30, 2000 ) Conf. No.: 2503  
For: Value Chain Optimization System )  
and Method )  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION**

In reply to the Office Action of October 6, 2003, the period for reply to which extends through February 6, 2004, with a one-month extension, please amend the application as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2 in this paper.

**Remarks** follow the Amendment to the Claims section of this paper.

RECEIVED  
JAN 21 2004  
GROUP 3600

FINNEGAN  
HENDERSON  
FARABOW  
GARRETT &  
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.408.4000  
Fax 202.408.4400  
[www.finnegan.com](http://www.finnegan.com)